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REMARKS

Claims 1-19 and 23-27 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Applicant's representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone conversation on September 2, 2003 in connection with placing the subject patent application in condition for allowance. In accordance with our conversation, claims 1 and 23 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of herein canceled claims 9 and 13, and claim 10 has been amended herein to correctly depend on presently amended claim 1. Furthermore, all the claims have been amended for purposes of clarity (*i.e.* replacing said with the). A complete listing of the claims showing the present amendments can be found at pages 2-8.

A terminal disclaimer is enclosed herewith. However, it is noted for the record that applicant's representative respectfully disagrees with the non-statutory double patenting rejection of the present claimed invention vis-à-vis the invention recited in claims 1-35 of U.S. Patent No. 6,101,483. It is submitted that the inventions are believed to be patentably distinct; and that the subject terminal disclaimer is being filed simply to expedite favorable prosecution of this application.

Entrance of the above amendments and allowance of the subject application is respectfully requested in accordance with our telephone conversation.

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CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be condition for allowance in view of the above amendments and comments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP



Himanshu S. Amin  
Reg. No. 40,894

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP  
24<sup>TH</sup> Floor, National City Center  
1900 E. 9<sup>TH</sup> Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114  
Telephone: (216) 696-8730  
Facsimile: (216) 696-8731